

REMARKS

Applicants have canceled claims 8, 14, and 24. Applicants have added claims 33-35. Claim 33 is directed to the method of claim 1 wherein the user enters the search term in a dialog box in a Web page. Claims 34 and 35 are directed to the method of claim 1 wherein the step of highlighting the search term is performed by a server and not by a client data processing system. Neither of the cited references show or suggest entering the search term in a dialog box or highlighting the search term on the server side. Applicants therefore request allowance of claims 33-35.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

I.B Rejection of Claims

The examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6, 8, 15, 17-20, 22, 24 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Belfiore et al., Intelligent Automatic Searching for resources in a Distributed Environment, U.S. Patent 6,009,459 (Dec. 28, 1999). The examiner states that:

As to claims 1-4, Belfiore teaches a method for highlighting occurrences of searched text in a web page [COL 2 lines 29-34]. As noted in COL 1 lines 12-27, this involves running a web browser to send a search query that identifies a web site and returns a copy of the web page in HTML. As noted at COL 1 lines 64-65, the browser typically renders the display of the web page.

As to claim 6, FIG 5 depicts a highlight displayed as an underline and as bold type.

As to claim 8, Belfiore highlights search terms [COL 7 lines 6-28 and elsewhere], and search terms correspond at least to keywords and phrases. The examples of Belfiore also include a sentence: 'Find windows' [COL 7 line 1].

The elements of claims 15, 17-20, 22, 24 and 31 are rejected in the analysis above and these claims are rejected on that basis.

Office Action of September 10, 2004.

Claim 1 as amended is as follows:

1. A method in a data processing system for processing a Web page, the method comprising:

sending a search query entered by a user from a browser to a search engine, wherein the search query includes a search term;

receiving the Web page in response to sending the query including a search term; and

highlighting each instance of the search term present in the Web page.

Belfiore does not show or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1. For example, Belfiore does not show sending a search query entered by a user and adjusting returned Web pages to highlight the search term. Instead, Belfiore only shows automatically parsing an incorrect URL for search terms, passing those search terms into a search query, and highlighting search terms on a first returned web page. The text at column 7, lines 6-28, cited by the examiner, is as follows:

A second alternative is depicted in FIG. 8B. In this second alternative, instead of returning search results, the search engine calls the server for the highest scoring web site in the search results. *In this second alternative, the search engine initiates a search using the terms that were passed in the template to produce search results.* These search results are scored or weighted. The scoring attempts to identify which search results are most likely to be of interest to the user. The search engine locates the highest scoring web page as the most likely web page desired by the user (step 102 in FIG. 8B). The search engine then tells the browser of the server that holds the most likely web page so that the browser may request that the web page be forwarded to the client computer 30 (step 104 in FIG. 8B). The server returns the web page to the client computer (step 106 in FIG. 8B). The web browser 42 includes codes for opening and modifying the contents of the elements contained within the HTML document of the web page. The web browser code then alters the content of the web page document if desired (step 108 in FIG. 8B). Specifically, the web page may be opened to highlight search terms within the web page. The web browser 42 then displays the altered HTML document for the web page in the client area 82 of the web browser window 80 (step 110 in FIG. 8B).

Belfiore, col. 7, ll. 6-28 (emphasis added).

As seen in this text and elsewhere in Belfiore, the text taken from the improper URL is automatically entered into a search engine. The user in Belfiore is incapable of allowing a user to create a search in which retrieved web pages contain highlighted search terms. On the other hand, claim 1 as amended provides for a manual search in

which the user enters desired terms for which a search is to be performed. Thus, Belfiore does not anticipate claim 1 as amended.

Because claims 2-4, 6, 8, 15, 17-20, 22, 24, and 31 depend from claim 1 or are similar to claim 1, the same distinctions that exist between claim 1 and Belfiore also exist between these claims and Belfiore. Additionally, claims 2-4, 6, 8, 15, 17-20, 22, 24, and 31 claim other additional combinations of features not taught by the reference. For example, Belfiore does not show that the search term may be a sentence or phrase as provided in claim 24. Consequently, it is respectfully urged that the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 8, 15, 17-20, 22, 24, and 31 has been overcome.

In addition, claim 1 as amended is not obvious in view of Belfiore. Belfiore is directed to a method of automatically parsing terms from an improper URL and using the parsed terms to automatically create a search for content assumed to be desired by a user. Claim 1 as amended is directed to a method of highlighting search terms in returned Web pages, where a user enters the search terms. Belfiore and claim 1 are directed toward completely different problems in that Belfiore is directed to a method of generating a search and claim 1 is directed toward highlighting search terms. Thus, when Belfiore is considered as a whole, one of ordinary skill would not have any reason to look to or modify Belfiore to achieve the claimed invention. Accordingly, claim 1 is non-obvious in view of Belfiore. For similar reasons, all of the claims are non-obvious in view of Belfiore.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness

The examiner has rejected claims 5, 7, 9-14, 16, 21, 23, 25-30 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belfiore in view of Stone et al., Dynamic Conversion of Object-Oriented Programs to Tag-Based Procedural Code, U.S. Patent 6,504,554, (Jan. 7, 2003). The examiner states that:

Belfiore does not explicitly address the details of determining textual formats in web pages with tag pairs. The claims listed above involve the use of tag pairs for this purpose.

Official Notice is taken that within HTML documents, formatting such as font, bold, size and the like are expressed with the use of tag pairs.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to highlight the search terms in Belfiore using tag pairs because this method was available as a feature of HTML.

Stone provides evidence of the formatting of web pages with tag pairs in the context of supporting the reuse of web pages [COL 1 lines 27-38]. In particular, the general structure of web page formatting is noted as COL 2 lines 1-11 and beginning at COL 5 line 66, and a specific example of the use of pairs of tags for this purpose is given at COL 6 line 12 and elsewhere."

Office Action of September 10, 2004.

Claims 5 and 7 depend from claim 1 as amended and claims 9-14, 16, 21, 23, 25-30 and 32 are also amended to contain the limitation that the search is manual. Neither reference shows or suggests manually entering a search term and highlighting the search term in the returned Web pages. Thus, the proposed combination does not result in the claims as amended. Accordingly, the rejections are moot.

In addition, the claims as amended are not obvious. Had the claims been obvious, then Belfiore would have already disclosed the claimed method. In light of the fact that Belfiore could have disclosed the claimed invention, no reason exists to assume that one of ordinary skill would have sought to combine the references in the manner proposed by the examiner. Thus, when read as a whole, the proposed combination does not render the claims as amended obvious.

Moreover, Belfiore published in 1999, five years ago, and Stone is only directed toward an HTML package for writing Java[®] code. Thus, Belfiore is old in the computer and software art and Stone is irrelevant to the claimed features. Had the claims been obvious, then someone would have modified Belfiore or otherwise combined the references in the intervening years. Because no one has done so, the claims are non-obvious.

In addition, when considered as a whole, one of ordinary skill would not combine the references. Belfiore shows a method of automatically initiating a search based on terms entered into an improper URL. Stone shows an HTML package of the Windows[®] foundation classes framework that allows Java[®] developers to write Java[®] code normally as if they were writing to any user interface framework. Considering that the two references address wholly different problems, one of ordinary skill would have no reason

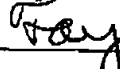
to look to or otherwise combine the references to achieve the claimed inventions. Thus, the claims are non-obvious over the proposed combination.

III. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over Belfiore and Stone and is now in condition for allowance. The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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